

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,

260 Iowa Street

Dubuque

Dubuque County

Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-M

HABS  
IOWA,  
31-DUBU,  
13-M-

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**PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

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Historic American Buildings Survey  
Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver Colorado 80225

## 260 Iowa Street

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31 - DUBU,  
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**Site Location:**

260 Iowa Street  
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa  
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 7.10  
Cadastral grid : SE1/4 NE1/4 S25 T89N R2E  
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'  
UTM coordinates: 15.692030.4707520  
Lot dimensions : 111'x 129': .33 acre  
Lot description: North 111' of South 157'  
of City Lot 745.

**Present Owner:**

Iowa Department of Transportation

**Present Usage:**

vacant

**Present Condition :**

fair

**Overall Dimensions:** 111'x 115'; 1 story

**Orientation :**

west

**Architectural**

Plan type : 1-story trapezoidal, open-space warehouse.

**Description :**

Foundation: reinforced concrete and coursed ashlar  
limestone perimeter walls with concrete slab.

Structure : steel frame with brick masonry bearing walls.

Ext. walls: face brick laid in common bond (north) or  
Flemish bond (south).

Roof : flat composition roof with brick parapet walls.

Chimneys : none

Openings : one steel multi-light industrial window and one  
fixed-sash showcase window (currently infilled  
with wood paneling) on front, both with loose  
lintels; steel industrial or 2/2 wood double-  
hung windows on rear; three sectional wood  
garage doors on front, two on rear (one  
currently infilled).

Details : continuous concrete coping on front parapet;  
panels of soldier and rowlock bricks laid flush  
with front brick wall over window and door  
openings; pressed metal cornice over front  
showcase window.

**Construction Date :** 1931; 1938

**Architecture Style:** Twentieth Century Functional

**Physical History :** T.C. Pringle and S.A. Atherton established the Key City  
Barrel Factory on this site in 1868, a year after a previous structure, the  
Key City Flouring Mills, was destroyed by an explosion. After the barrel plant  
was itself destroyed by fire on July 22, 1879, Pringle and Atherton quickly  
rebuilt so that barrels and staves were in production the following winter.

By 1884 the firm employed almost a hundred men and the factory complex had expanded onto the former site of the city's oldest steam-powered grain mill, the Dubuque City Mills (built 1847; rebuilt in 1861; burned in June 1880). Finally, when yet another fire destroyed the factory in 1890, Key City ceased operations.

Prominent Dubuque wagon manufacturer A.A. Cooper built two stone warehouses on the corner of Second and Iowa around this time. Three two-story brick buildings replaced these warehouses between 1905 and 1909, occupied by the Midland Chemical Company in the southernmost location, Clark Roller Awning Company in the middle, and the Dubuque Broom Factory in the north. In 1931 property owner Sam Barvin razed the northernmost structure and erected a single-story garage for \$6,500 to house the Dubuque-Chicago Motor Transportation Company, a freight hauling business. The building was typically configured, with steel beams clear-spanning the space over a concrete slab floor. Owner of the Dubuque Hide and Fur Company, Barvin used the remaining two-story structure on the south half as a warehouse for hides, furs and junk. In 1938 he demolished the remaining two buildings on the south half of the lot. Securing an easement from the A.Y. McDonald Company, which owned the adjacent warehouse [HABS No. IA-160-N], he used a portion of the north party wall of McDonald's building to build a one-story extension of his garage. Like his earlier building, this open-plan structure featured a steel-beam roof and concrete slab floor. Since then it has been occupied by a series of transportation companies and, most recently, by the Brown Publishing Company. Other than the boarding-over of the front showcase window and the infill of some of the rear openings, the building remains unaltered.

**Significance:** Though built late in the construction milieu of Dubuque's industrial district, this single-story building typifies the architecture and construction of the brick-clad commercial/industrial structures found near the railroad tracks on the city's east side.

**References:** Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.  
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.  
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1923.  
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-17-4-3.  
Dubuque City Building Permit Record: 260 Iowa Street.  
Land Title Abstract (located at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames, Iowa).  
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."

**Compiler:** Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, Loveland Colorado  
December 1988.